



Illustration by John H. Rumely,  
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## ***SPHAEROMERIA ARGENTEA*** **CHICKEN SAGE**

Chicken Sage is a perennial with many flowering stems that are 5-20 cm high and numerous short, sterile stems arising from a woody, branched rootcrown. The alternate leaves are up to 15 mm long and are narrowly fan-shaped and usually 3-lobed at their tip. Foliage is aromatic and densely covered with appressed, gray hair. Several short stalked flower heads are borne on the stem tips. Each hemispheric head has numerous disk flowers and 2-3 series of overlapping, membranous-margined, involucre bracts that are 3-4 mm high. Ray flowers are lacking, and the seed lacks a pappus. Flowering in June-early July.

The leaves, heads, and subshrub habit make this plant resemble a tiny sagebrush, while *SPHAEROMERIA CAPITATA* forms dense mats and has more deeply divided leaves and dense clusters of flower heads.